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New Viewpoints in American History. By ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER. New York and Chicago: The Macmillan Company, 1922. Pp. xiv+299.

Since the opening of the present century a significant transformation has occurred in the writing of American history. During these years a new school of American historians has replaced the chiefly political and constitutional story of American history with one strongly colored by new interests, viewpoints, and sympathies. For the most part this new story is inaccessible to the layman and to history teachers in elementary and high schools because it lies buried in the files of historical journals and the publications of local and national historical societies and in the multitude of monographs on special phases of American history that have been written recently. Realizing the gravity of this situation Professor Schlesinger, of the State University of Iowa, set out to rectify it. To say that his book meets real and vital needs of history teachers is but a mild way of stating the facts in the case.

In twelve well-balanced and interestingly written chapters Professor Schlesinger brings together the results of the recent researches in the field of American history in a non-technical manner which is sure to attract the general reader and the history teacher. These chapters deal with such subjects as the influence of immigration on American history, geographic factors in American development, economic influences, aristocracy in American history, radicalism and conservatism, the rôle of women in American history, the American Revolution, economic aspects of the movement for the constitution, the significance of Jacksonian Democracy, state rights, the modern era, and the riddle of the parties. For the one who cares to read more widely on the topics treated there appears a valuable bibliographical note at the end of each chapter. To many readers these notes will be of immense value inasmuch as they contain a list of the most important contributions of the new school of American historians.

Professor Schlesinger's book should be read not only by history teachers but also by teachers of economics, geography, sociology, and political science, for the new conceptions and fresh points of view recently afforded by these subjects have had much influence in reconstructing the new story of our past. A worth-while use also to be made of the book would be to have each member of a senior high

school American history class read it in connection with or on completing the course. Such a use would overcome some of the present difficulties experienced by teachers who must use, as is inevitable in this particular field of history, textbooks which are a generation behind the times.

R. M. TRYON

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The Housing of the Unskilled Wage Earner. By EDITH ELMER WOOD. New York: Macmillan, 1919. Pp. 321. \$2.25.

Mrs. Wood aims to supply a factual basis for the construction of a rational housing policy. She does not try to gather any new facts in a field in which so many investigations have already been made, but brings together the facts which have hitherto been available only in a large number of separate reports and government documents. The weakness of American communities in dealing with the problem is clearly brought out. This is especially true when it comes to positive action, in the form of attempts to supply good homes for the poorer citizens. What she finds to record here is pitifully small. Except for the work of the Massachusetts Homestead Commission and the war emergency work of the federal government, there is nothing more than a gesture and a promise which may or may not be fulfilled. Her own outline of a suggested policy is carefully worked out and makes good its claim to being a comprehensive policy. It is not radical; it suggests nothing that has not been successfully tried some place, and yet it does not copy blindly the policy of foreign countries but keeps clearly in mind our own constitutional and legal system as well as our economic conditions.

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